

Message Text

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17

ORIGIN NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 DEAE-00 SNM-02 L-03 SCA-01 H-03

PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

FBIE-00 SY-04 JUSE-00 /064 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:RDLORTON:JET

APPROVED BY NEA/INS:DHKUX

SCS - MR. LIVORNESE

NEA - MR. LAINGEN

NEA/P - MR. SHERMAN

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R 271859Z JUN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 138956

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, IN

SUBJECT:HARCOS/FLETCHER

FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED JUNE 26 FOR POSSIBLE USE
DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN. NO QUESTIONS WERE ASKED.

QUESTION: DO YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE
HEALTH OF THE TWO AMERICANS IN JAIL IN CALCUTTA?

ANSWER: OUR CONSULAR OFFICER IN CALCUTTA (ANN HERIDAN)
VISITED MR. HARCOS AND MR. FLETCHER ON JUNE 21. AT
THAT TIME THEY APPEARED HEALTHY AND SEEMED CHEERFUL.
THEY CONFIRMED THEY WERE ON A HUNGER STRIKE HOPING TO
SPEED UP THEIR TRAIL BUT ALSO SAID THEY WERE TAKING
TEA WITH SUGAR FIVE TIMES A DAY.

QUESTION: WHAT ABOUT THE STATUS OF THEIR CASE?

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ANSWER: PRE-TRIAL PROCEEDINGS HAVE BEGUN IN CALCUTTA.
THEIR DEFENSE ATTORNEYS HAVE PUBLICLY STATED THEY WERE
ENGAGED IN DRUG SMUGGLING.

QUESTION: CAN WE CONFIRM THAT THEY ARE GOING TO BE
CHARGED WITH DRUG SMUGGLING?

ANSWER: AS WE HAVE REPEATEDLY SAID WE CANNOT COMMENT ON
ANY CHARGES WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN MADE PUBLIC. I HAVE
NOTHING MORE TO SAY ON THE CASE AT THIS TIME.

SISCO

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Message Attributes

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